

Touch and Go

BALLONS VER IOWA

July-August, 2009

Record Altitude Flight by Chauncey Dunn

August 1, 1979

August 1 will be the 30 year anniversary of a record altitude flight by Chauncey Dunn that originated near Indianola.

Mr. Dunn's first record altitude flight was in 1971. He and Karl Stefan (who will be inducted into the Ballooning Hall of Fame in August at the National Balloon Museum), both of Colorado, had been planning a flight over the Colorado Rockies. They wanted to be familiar with the balloon's performance at high altitude, so they decided to see how high they could go and try for an altitude record at the same time. They wore heavy winter gear - Raven snowmobile suits, arctic boots, mittens and military aviator hard-hats. They made 2 test flights in an AX-8 balloon with all the components (oxygen, radios, transponder, barograph, parachutes) to altitudes above 20,000 feet. At that point they decided if a record were to be set, only one of them could fly at a time. Weather conditions were right for a June 9, 1971 launch. A coin was tossed and Karl was the first pilot to launch. He flew to 31,189 feet. 4 days later, Chauncey launched and broke that record, ascending to 32,949 feet. Chauncey went through a snow storm at 21,000 feet. He broke through the storm at 30,000 feet. While at that altitude, he conversed with the pilot of a jetliner bound from Tokyo to Chicago. Chauncey's descent rate was 1500 ft/min, with a rotation of 7 rpm, with the gondola swinging out 10-20 degrees from vertical.

Nine years later Mr. Dunn would break that record in Iowa. The 141,000 cubic-foot balloon lifted off at 5:05 am on August 1, 1979 from Laverty's field north of Indianola. For this flight he wore a pressurized suit. The crew lost sight of the balloon minutes later when Chauncey entered a cloud layer at about 2,000 feet. During the flight he encountered terribly cold temperatures, -70 degrees F at his highest point. At about 43,000 feet, he could no longer see or hear his burner flame. He ascended at 1,000-1,500 feet per minute and his rate of descent was 2,000-2,800 feet per minute. He wore a parachute with a barometric release that would have pulled the ripcord if he had been unable to do so. Two hours and 39 minutes later, he

landed safely after reaching an altitude of 53,200 feet. His record still stands for flights in an open gondola. Others have gone higher, but in pressurized gondolas.

Editor's note: Max & I had the pleasure of meeting Mr. Dunn two years ago in Maui. He spends his winters at the same resort that we stay at. At that time, we didn't know that he was a balloonist. We met him again in January '09 & conversed with him about Indianola & ballooning. It wasn't until we got home that we realized that we had met a ballooning legend. I wrote to him after our trip home & these are some of the questions that I asked.

How did you get started in ballooning?

We bought the 1st balloon over the telephone - never seeing a balloon, except in a few pictures. Self taught for 9 months (lots of mistakes). When Karl Stephen called and asked who helped me get my certificate, I answered "What certificate?" Karl wanted to fly, I needed help, we made a great deal.

Are you still involved in ballooning?

No, except to travel or get together with old balloon buddies and families. 25 years - 4700+ hours. They were some of the best times of my life.

Any family involved in ballooning?

2 daughters and one son-in-law were very active as pilots. Lots of travel together, now our time is spent in Maui, Steamboat Springs or traveling together.

Your record flight in Iowa - does that record still stand?

Only for open basket. With a pressurized sphere, it's been broken twice that I know of.

Where did you land?

11 miles south of Indianola. The ascent took me 42 miles north of Des Moines. The descent brought me back over Laverty's and south for a landing.

(continued on page 3)

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Letter from President Meika

Hello to all my friends!

I should be careful about what I wish for. I've been panting for summer and now I'm just panting. Despite the hot weather, area pilots are reporting lots of great flights. I really hope they are taking good care of their crew members. Keep everyone hydrated and treat them well.

Don't forget our BOI membership meeting at 6:30 PM on July 19th. I will be proposing that as many balloonists as possible fly over Indianola the evening of July 21, when RAGBRAI visits. It's a great opportunity to promote the National Balloon Classic and a good time for all you party animals.

This party animal continues to embrace the latest technology and has joined the Facebook generation. Look me up for all the latest BOI facts and a few juicy rumors. Technology will never replace the personal touch. I'm at the Balloonport working on President stuff nearly all the time so this is an open invitation to stop by, pull up an envelope, and scratch where it itches. We are air conditioned so stop by after a hot flight to share your adventure. Don't overheat your envelope and always remember to:

Fly Safely,

Meika

Letter from Vice-President Sandy

Hope this finds everyone doing well and getting in as much ballooning as possible. The Iowa weather has been somewhat crazy. Not sure where spring went to, but I guess one cannot complain on those nice days. Take them while you can.

Life has been fairly quiet here in Radcliff, IA. Well, I should say most of my time has been spent at the lake cabin. I've decided it may be getting time to retire from the bank and spend more time at the lake.

In looking at the ballooning calendar, many of you will be heading to Battle Creek, MI. Have a safe trip. Before you know it, the National Balloon Classic will be here. According to Mom (Phyllis Drake) and Dad (Dick Drake), this year's Classic should be a classic! Now, just hope for nice cool flyable weather! None of this hot/humid stuff.

On another note: Congratulations to Jim and Rita Fromm who just celebrated their 35th Wedding Anniversary. And, to anyone else celebrating a special anniversary, Happy Anniversary to you as well.

(continued on page 3)

Letter from Vice-President Sandy

(continued from page 2)

Congratulations to Jeremy Rubin, who was just crowned the winner of the 2009 Ottumwa Pro Balloon Race in Ottumwa. I heard those who attended the event had a great time.

Meika and I have been discussing getting ourselves on Facebook. Meika ended up breaking down and now has a Facebook account. Be sure to stop by her site and add her as a friend. Also, she plans to give updates on Balloons Over Iowa happenings, so be sure to check that out. I'm still debating on getting set up. Computers still scare me a bit.

Speaking of Facebook, The National Balloon Museum in Indianola, IA is now on Facebook. Be sure to check out their site for all the happenings and special announcements at the Museum. The National Balloon Museum and the US Hall of Fame will be inducting two members into the hall of Fame August 2nd. Stay tuned for more details.

I, once again, must apologize to Carol Harris for being tardy on pawing my letter out. I guess in my old age (dog years) my mind is slowing going or maybe it's just the weather. Well, I'm being summoned to the bank vault for assistance. I just hope there are treats waiting or a nice dog pad waiting for me. The vault is always the best place for an afternoon nap. Just ask Dad, just kidding.

Hope to see everyone at the Classic in a few weeks. Don't forget to bring treats!

Until next time keep looking up!

Sandy Drake



35 years! Jim & Rita Fromm with their cousin Cathy who introduced them & daughter Monica.

Record Altitude Flight by Chauncey Dunn

(continued from page 1)

What did you do in preparation for this flight?

Special diet, high altitude chamber training at Lawry field, 49 parachute jumps, 50 lbs less weight and better shape than ever - and very young - and not too bright.

Any other activities in ballooning that aren't as well known as your world altitude flights?

Grand Canyon, the Great Lakes, Continental divide, Bahamas to Florida, South America, New Zealand, Switzerland, France, England, and most all the states in the US.

What is the highlight of your ballooning career?

The friends that we made and the scenery and wonderful times we had.

Any other memories of ballooning in Iowa?

Hitting the Water Tower at Simpson College. No air conditioning, but many beautiful people.

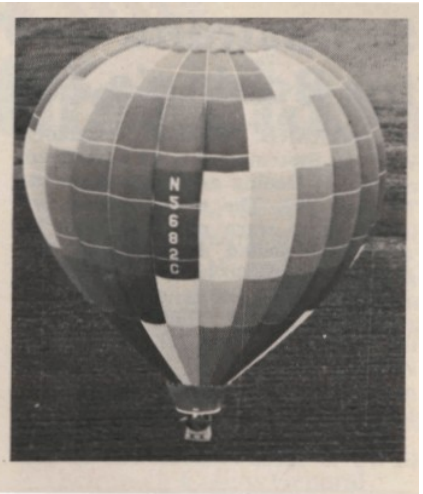
Any other special interest of hobbies outside of ballooning?

River running, sky diving, scuba, skiing, travel, small ship cruising. Life is beautiful.

High-flying Montgolfier nominee

VETERAN American balloonist Chauncey Dunn has been nominated for the international Montgolfier Diploma award after his record-breaking altitude flight last year. He climbed 10 miles high in a standard Raven S-66A hot-air balloon named "Stratosphere," setting a new absolute record for high altitude flight in hot-air ballooning classes AX-9 to AX-15. Dunn reached 53,000ft, beating the previous record of 45,836ft set in 1974 over India by a 375,000ft³ balloon lifting a pressurised gondola.

Dunn's balloon (right) had a volume of only 140,000ft³ and open gondola. Besides two variometers, he had a sealed barograph, two 720 channel radios, altimeter and transponders. He also had a pressurised flight suit, dual pressure-breathing equipment and two parachutes. The winner of the Montgolfier Diploma, ballooning's top international award, will be selected in Paris this spring.



FLIGHT International, 23 February 1980

Chauncey Dunn was awarded the Montgolfier Diploma for 1979.

Harlan's Dream

Harlan is 67 years old. He had a dream of taking a hot air balloon ride for over 30 years and on June 22, 2009, his dream came true. I became aware in late May when my son and balloon pilot Patrick told me about the wish. Patrick's Aunt Becky works in Cedar Rapids, Iowa for hospice care. She has a patient named Harlan Benna who is battling cancer.

When Patrick told me about the potential flight and knowing it was for a hospice patient, naturally some concerns immediately arose. Usually by the time hospice is involved in someone's life, their health is far beyond the ability to take a balloon ride and flying conditions must be the most ideal for the patient to handle a ride and landing.

Finally the day of the flight became apparent. The skies had no clouds in sight, winds were so unbelievably calm that only God could make this day happen. Although the temperature was a concern at 95 degrees with a heat index of 101, Patrick and I both knew he must fly now for Harlan would soon be unable to ever take a flight. Everything came together and the pilot, crew, passenger, family and friends all met in Norway, Iowa for the flight.

Harlan has a very gentle and mild temperament, a person that is easily lovable. When Harlan met Patrick, who is 20 years old, he said "Are you old enough?", which made us all laugh. Patrick said he gets that a lot. You could see the excitement in Harlan's eyes of what was about to take place. During cold inflation, I noticed Harlan, who had been on one knee observing the inflation, was trying to stand up and couldn't because he was too weak. I helped him to his feet. At this point, I knew Patrick might be tested as a pilot. I informed him of his passenger's weakened condition. On board we provided a seat, just in case. They boarded up and were off, going nowhere fast. Within ½ hr, they had flown ¼ mile in one direction and then ¼ mile in another ½ hr, almost making it back to the launch site. As the very skilled pilot brought the balloon down for the most gentle landing possible, Harlan was beaming. He had always been afraid of heights, but mustered up the courage to take this flight. He stood the entire flight, taking in the wonders of the experience.

Nine months prior to the flight, Harlan started with hospice care. When care began, he was told he would have nine months to live. At the time of the flight, he was not taking any medication nor any kind of radiation treatment. His hospice caregivers said he was beginning to show signs of the disease taking hold of him.

After landing, Harlan wrote his thoughts in our memory book, then we held a ceremony, which included a First Flight certificate, a bottle of sparkling grape juice, a balloon

card, and a photo of Harlan and his pilot in the basket taken just prior to launch.

As Harlan left with his gifts and wonderful memories, I can only reflect on the impact that this occasion will have on all involved.

Remember God gives us gifts and talents that we should used to bless others. In turn he will bless us more.

Tim Cloyd

RAGBRAI

Here are the plans to date for Tuesday and Wednesday July 21st and 22nd when RAGBRAI is in Indianola.

I am trying to come up with a walk through balloon to place at Wilder Elementary when the riders start entering town on West Euclid. If anyone has one they are willing to donate and let me set up that would be greatly appreciated!!!

There will be a strongly, strongly suggested meeting for those flying over town Tuesday evening at 5:45 pm at the NBC balloon field up by the pilot compound. Jim Gebhart will be in charge of this meeting. Please plan accordingly for all the traffic you will face getting to the balloon field. You may want to loop around the city and come in from the East on Highway 92 because the city will probably be very, very congested! Jim will talk about the AirGuard F16 flyover and the specifics of crew chasing pilots and trying to miss all the Indianola traffic. I know several of you have already contacted Jim to let him know you were planning on flying. If you have not contacted Jim with your intentions could you please do so? Jim is keeping a list of pilots so he will know who to expect at the meeting. Thank you so much for your cooperation in this matter.

I am in charge of the Balloon Glow at the Simpson College football field. I have two balloons currently and I am in the process of locating one other willing pilot. These balloons will not be able to do the Tuesday fly over. I will need to have the balloons staged at the football field before noon on Tuesday July 21st because of all the traffic that will be in town.

Finally there will be a flight off the NBC balloon field Wednesday morning July 22nd. RAGBRAI riders will be leaving town on Highway 92 and riding right past the balloon field that morning. Hopefully we can give them one really nice final show that morning.

If anyone has any questions please contact me or Jim Gebhart. I'll post our contact information below. Also, thank you so much for your help in making Indianola a very memorable stop for all the 2009 RAGBRAI riders! Hopefully we will be able to get in everything I have listed above and riders will talk about their stop and stay in

Indianola for years and years to come!

"Crazy" Al Appenzeller, appenzeller@mchsi.com
515-371-3814 cell

Jim Gebhart, jamesgeb049@msn.com 515-729-2238 cell

National Balloon Museum News

Please come and help celebrate the Hall of Fame on August 2, (Sunday) Open house 1:00-4:00 with the inductions at 2:00. We will have three fabulous inductees: Karl Stefan and Lucy Stefan from Fort Collins, CO and Jim Winker from Sioux Falls, SD. All three will be in attendance.

After a naval academy education and career **Karl Stefan** did design and research in stratospheric balloon projects. He became involved producing and flying sport balloons, airship design, and was a longtime leader in the development and international rule making for ballooning. Karl now does consulting out of Fort Collins, CO and is an active member of the B.F.A.

Lucy Luck Stefan was an Amelia Earhart fellow in 1948 when she met Karl in Minnesota where she studied supersonic aerodynamics. Lucy flew for the first time at age 8 and spent much time in the sky throughout her career, achieving many firsts in the fields of engineering and gas ballooning. She continues efforts to advance women in science and engineering fields.

Jim Winker, Sioux Falls, S.D. currently consults in the fields of balloon system design for both sport balloons and high altitude scientific balloons. He is considered an authoritative data resource for the history of balloon technology, having assembled a library of 4800 reports and documents in the field under contract with N.A.S.A. From 1956 to 1990 Jim was associated with Raven Industries in Sioux Falls in design, sales and management. He is an author, consultant, inventor, and archivist with many honors and memberships.

The winner of this year's postcard contest was Dennis Nicholson of Indianola. We have his photo on our new postcard and it also will be featured on the new Museum Calendar which will be for sale



during the Classic this year.

They will cost \$8.00 each. If you want to order them ahead just call the museum (515-961-3714) and put your order in. Both the postcard and the calendar will be for sale in the museum as well as in the concession gift shop at the field. Come and see all the wonderful photography we received from all over the USA for our Calendar/Photo.

Have you seen Disney's "UP" yet? Come and visit the new exhibit about "UP", compliments of pilot Jonathan Trappe, The Blimp Works and Disney/Pixar.

Congratulations

Spencer Isley born 12/17/08
Parents: Todd & Patti Isley

Paxton Michael Patterson born 5-6-09
8 lbs, 19 3/4" long
Parents: Todd & Errin Patterson



Analeigh Drew Van Broekhuizen
born 5-24-09
6lbs, 11ozs.
Parents: Kerrie & Anthony Van Broekhuizen
Grandparents: Rob & Linda Bartholomew



Congratulations to Branden Bloom, who Bret Christian's new soloed 7-2-09 racer

Balloons Over Iowa Repair Station


Rob & Linda Bartholomew
18999 Blue Pl., Carlisle, IA

Phone: 515 989-3708

email: balloonsover Iowa@msn.com



Happy Anniversary

Todd & Errin Patterson	8-2
Tom & Julie Ricke	8-4
Jerry & Rosa Tierman	8-9
Dan & Jeanne Wiley	8-14
Aaron & Elizabeth Gebhart	8-18
Al & Mel Appenzeller	8-26
James & Julie Cahill	8-31
	
Gary & Merrie Fouche	9-3
Allan & Mandy Keller	9-4
Scott & Cynthia Wooge	9-7
Darcy & Marcy Hoch	9-14
Bob & Janice Shelton	9-14
Shawn & Angie Michael	9-19
Rob & Erika Nutting	9-20
Bob & Penny Pieper	9-25
Joel & Karen Worthington	9-26
Ward & Diane Roscoe	9-28
Jeff & Rhonda Thomm	9-29

Mary Dockstader Ankeny

Mary Dockstader, 84, died Saturday, July 4, 2009, at the Kavanagh House in Des Moines. Mary was born on February 25, 1925, in Maryville, MO.

Mary enjoyed traveling, reading westerns, shopping and spending time with her grandkids.

Mary is survived by her daughters, Mary Lee Perkins and Patricia Ann Grubb; two grandchildren; three step-great-grandchildren; brother, W.H.Burr; sister-in-law, Janet Smoger. She was preceded in death by her husband, Norman Lee Dockstader; and sisters, Marion Strate and Evelyn Murray.

Memorial Contributions may be made to the Kavanagh House or the Animal Rescue League in loving memory of Mary.



Sympathy to Mark & Sheri Moen and family on the passing of Mark's mother, Caroline.

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5,000	\$ 190.00*	\$27.50*

* for Color front B/W back ,Add \$50.00 for 2 sides Color

* All prices subject to change without notice

www.Balloonsgalore.us

Address change

Todd & Patti Isley
19290 Cleveland Place
Carlisle, IA 50047
515 989-0047

Calendar of Events

July 21 **RAGBRAI** rides into Indianola
 July 31-August 8 **National Balloon Classic** Contact Greg Marchant - 515-961-8415 or info@nationalballoonclassic.com
 August 1 **US Ballooning Hall of Fame Induction** National Balloon Museum
 August 16 6:30 p.m. **BOI Membership Meeting**
 August 21-23 **Centralia IL Balloon Fest** www.centraliail.com
 August 22-24 **Columbia MO** Contact gsw1@mchsi.com
 August 26-30 **Children's Miracle Balloon Rally, WI** Contact trir@wctc.net
 August 26-30 **BFA National Hot Air Balloon Championships MI** Contact paulp@cameronballoons.com
 August 28-30 **Lincoln IL Art & Balloon Fest** www.lincolnilinois.com/balloonfest
 August 28-30 **Monroe Balloon Rally** Monroe, WI; Contact: Pam Christopher mcci@tds.net
 September 4-6 **Danville IL Non-Event** Contact dean@heritagedevelop.com
 September 5-7 **Great Pershing Balloon Derby** Brookfield, MO. Contact Sherry Techau 660 258-5290 or rstechau@classicnet.net
 September 5-7 **Colorado Balloon Classic** Colorado Springs, CO Contact - Phone: 719-471-4833 or balloonclassic@balloonclassic.com; www.balloonclassic.com
 September 11-13 **2nd Annual Fields of Flight** Council Bluffs Contact Matt Fenster 402-740-6629
 September 11-12 **Macomb IL Balloon Rally** Contact balloons33@comcast.net
 September 18-20 **SW Iowa Hot Air Balloon Days**, Creston, IA Contact Rob Bartholomew
 September 20 6:30 p.m. **BOI Membership Meeting**
 September 25-27 **Quad City Balloon Fest** Contact stanpcs@mchsi.com
 October 3 - 11 **Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta** Contact: Pat Brake, 888-422-7277
 October 18 6:30 p.m. **BOI Membership Meeting**
 October 31 6:00pm **BOI Halloween Party** BOI Balloonport, Carlisle, IA
 November 1 Time Change "Fall Back".
 November 15 6:30 p.m. **BOI Membership Meeting**
 January 16, 2010 National Balloon Museum **Ballooning Fashion Flare Style Show and Brunch** at First United Methodist Church, Indianola

Happy

August

James Cahill	8-1
Amy Craig	8-2
Julie Cahill	8-2
Jena Erger	8-3
Morgan Fenster	8-3
Jen Nordhagen	8-3
Stan Burgers	8-3
Al Appenzeller	8-4
LeRoy Clair	8-4
Christine Clemons	8-4
Matt Fenster	8-4
Cameron Hatcher	8-4
Katie Hatcher	8-4
Jenny Bridgewater	8-5
Dan Bertsch	8-6
LaVerna Edmister	8-8
Gary Fouche	8-8
Alex Oponski	8-8
Alison Hillary	8-8
Michelle Craig	8-13
Michelle Dalby	8-13
Sharon Foltz	8-14
Terry Garrett	8-15
Pam Hadley	8-16
Cynthia Nutting	8-16
Ariel Williams	8-16
Jon Danielson	8-19
Jeff Bridgewater	8-21
Brad Holcomb	8-21
Emilee Norris	8-21
Paul Schneider	8-21
Robert Nutting, Sr.	8-22
James Thompson	8-23
Angie Michael	8-26
Julie Ricke	8-27
Melissa Christian	8-27
Brandon Pieper	8-28
Bruce Thorman	8-29

Birthday

September

J.D. Montague	9-1
Monica Thompson	9-2
Thad Bloom	9-4
Corrin Clemons	9-4
Nathan Ziino	9-4
Caitlyn Clair	9-5
Celsey Clair	9-5
Bill Sponsler	9-5
Tom Hatcher	9-5
Gabe Dalby	9-7
Ron Nollen	9-9
Joel Worthington	9-9
Steve Jones	9-10
Mark Harris	9-11
Georgia Oakes	9-11
Melinda Worthington	9-12
Tim Cloyd	9-13
Michael Hadley	9-13
Cathy Clair	9-14
Lance Hoch	9-14
Bailey Marhoun	9-16
Karin Riepe	9-18
Dan Walker	9-18
Adena Worthington	9-19
Anna Schirn	9-20
Becky Wigeland	9-20
Gerald Conklin	9-21
Tyler Reinert	9-21
Chloe Gebhart	9-21
Zachary Nutting	9-23
Larry Van Wyngarden	9-23
Wayne Wasson	9-24
Tesha Huffaker	9-25
Brian Seymour	9-25
Rita Fromm	9-26
Teresa Purdy	9-26
Scott Wooge	9-26
Dan Corbin	9-27
Jason Jones	9-27
Gil Wigeland	9-27
Taylor Hatcher	9-27
Madison Rubin	9-28
Jeremy Rubin	9-28
Tiffany Anderson	9-30
Mike Reinert	9-30
Debbie Thorman	9-30



Ottumwa



Packing up by the river



Joel explaining ballooning



Gomer



*What to do while on hold?
Play football!*



Pilots & crew watching pibal Sunday a.m.



*Or send off
purple monkeys*



*Let the games
begin*



Benji & Cory



*Gomer - it might inflate better
without the straps!*



Gomer



Jeremy



Adam



Touch & Go



Friday evening glow



Beautiful launch spot



Ellis Benus



Mark



*Gomer, Jeremy & Kirk
fly to the field*



Jeremy approaches the field



*and drops in the
winning baggie*



*Jon Shelton
winds up*



*Balloonmeister Bill
Clemons awards
Jeremy 1st place plaque*



Leroy Clair - 2nd place



*Celsey Clair accepts for
3rd place, Brad Craig*



Mark Harris - 4th



Kirk Bloom - 5th



Jon Shelton - 7th



Scott Armstrong - 10th



Dan Corbin - 11th



AJ & Adam - tied for 13th



Benji - 12th



Celsey shows off door prizes

Great Plains Balloon Race - Sioux Falls



The Way It Was

30 years ago in BOI History:

- ★ August 1, 1979 Chauncey Dunn of Colorado broke an altitude record by ascending to 52,400 feet. He launched from Laverty's and landed south of Indianola 2 ½ hours later. The temperature was -65° above 52,000 ft.
- ★ August 1979 – Nationals. 250 – 300 balloons expected. Registration included pilots from 28 states, including 56 from Iowa. #1 Bruce Comstock, #2 – tie: James Birk & Sam Edwards; #10 Rob Bartholomew; #15 Jeff Thompson; #18 John Johnson; #24 Jerry Riley; #37 Terry Boettcher #43 Bill Griffin. One of the things listed on the schedule was a "Attitude Reforming Seminar".

25 years ago in BOI History:

- ★ 7-2-1984 Gary Fouche received his Commercial license.
- ★ 7-2-1984 David Edmister received his Commercial license.
- ★ 7-29-1984 Ralph Rieck received his Commercial license.
- ★ 7-30-1984 Denny Firestone received his Private license.
- ★ 1984 Nationals: #1 – Al Nels, #2 Bruce Comstock, #3 – Bill Cunningham, #29 – Rob Bartholomew; Laurie Allbaugh came within 18 inches of grabbing the keys to a Chevrolet Pickup; Indianola Balloons, Inc. changed its name to National Balloon Championship, Ltd. (NBC). New Nationals major sponsor – Des Moines Register. The Register's sponsorship allowed NBC to hire their first full-time executive director – Paddy Kalahar. The Register also donated a 1984 pick-up truck; Over 200 pilots registered for the 1984 Nationals – 100 competitive. The competitors will fly out of or over Pickard Park for their competitive events. The non-competitors will fly out of the Simpson College field.
- ★ 8-11-1984 Henry Schick received his Commercial license.
- ★ 8-28-1984 Norm Fee received his Commercial license.

20 years ago in BOI History:

- ★ 1989 – First National Balloon Classic held August 4-13. Tom Davies Race Director; Special Shapes – Zip A Dee Doo Duck (Donald Duck) and the Ear of Corn; Official sponsor – US West; Jim Oakes won a \$2,500 cash grab; Kermit Mitchell and Susan Randleman were married during the Classic. After the ceremony, Susan flew away with Norm Fee and Kermit flew away with his father-in-law Paul Randleman; Crew of the Year – Jim Pearson's crew; #1 Rich Jaworski, #2 Don Prine, #3 Gary Lawrence, #4 Jim Christiansen, #5 Johnny Petrehn, #6 Chuck Owens, #7 Dan McConnell, #8

Dave Morris, #9 Bill Clemons, #10 Mike Bien.

- ★ The balloon piloted by Mike Reinert of Storm Lake was approaching the balloon field from the northwest when a sever wind shear struck his balloon, causing it to strike a communications tower. Passengers in the balloon were Chris Reinert and Jeremy Rubin. The envelope snagged on the tower, ripping the fabric. The Gondola swayed in the wind for about 10 minutes before coming loose and falling to the ground, landing in a corn field. Enough of the envelope remained to act as a parachute, slowing the fall. The three were treated and released for cuts and abrasions

15 years ago in BOI History:

- ★ 7-10-1994 Jill Rubin received her Private license.
- ★ 7-25 – Flight over Des Moines. Launched from a school on 52nd & Grand – Rob Bartholomew, Bill Griffin & Jim Fromm. Landed in Carlisle, near Rob's.
- ★ 1994 Classic: Rob Bartholomew – Balloonmeister; Kristie Wildung – Marketing Director for Classic; 80 pilots; Jim Fromm won a new truck at the Classic Key Grab; Report of a Pilot leaving the Classic early to do a tether at a Nudist Colony; Famous Quote: Crew yelling up to pilot: "Do you have the keys to the chase?"; Special shapes appearing – NoZark Balloon, Famous Footwear Balloon, Chic-A-Boom & the United Van Lines Truck; Farmer of the Year – Ted & Ann Diehl; The John Russell Spirit of Ballooning Award to John Russell; Dr. Jon Russell the Classic Champ, #2 Will LaPointe, #3 Maury Petrehn, #6 Bill Clemons, #8 Garry Miklus, #9 Dennis Shelley.
- ★ August 7 – Mini-Classic: Balloonmeister was Joel Blom with assistant Dr. Jon Russell; Attending roll call: Bill Clemons, Sherry Allsup, Jim Fromm, Bill Griffin, Joel Blom, Jon Russell, Gary Fouche, Brian Seymour and Jim Gebhart; The Balloonmeister announced the evening's talk – to start off the annual event, all chase vehicles will line up in front of the pilot compound for the OJ Simpson-Cowling caravan. (This was a crowd pleaser, because some of the spectators joined in on the caravan). Task 1 – (Rabbit Dropping Pickup) – Pilots must fly into the field, with no minimum distance. 10 points were given for every rabbit dropping pilots gathered from his or her basket, NO ground contact. Task 2 (Hare and Hound) – otherwise known as the Carol Vought lingerie drop. Pilots will follow the hare balloon (Dr. Jon Russell) and drop their baggies (fruit of the loom underwear) at the target. Those flying were Jon Russell, Joel Blom and Bill Clemons
- ★ Grinnell - 15 balloons; 2 flights; 1st Mike Hadley, 2nd Dennis Tietge; 3rd Darrell Day
- ★ Nationals - Middleton, Ohio; Four Iowa pilots - JJ Johnson, Jim Thompson, Susan & Peter Stamats; Phil

Glebe 1st place

- ★ 8-24-1994 Andy Ogden received his Commercial license.

10 years ago in BOI History:

- ★ Rich Jaworski, Bill Clemons & Matt Fenster placed 18th at Team Championships.
- ★ 7-7-1999 Bill Mooberry received his Commercial license.
- ★ 7-11-1999 Barb Knoll received her Private license.
- ★ Christine & Benji Clemons married 7-15-99
- ★ July Member of the month – Conklins. Mary & Gerald got involved in ballooning in the mid '70's, when the early Nationals flew out of the Simpson College campus. They lived nearby & have been volunteering since. They have been married for 53 years & have 2 children, 3 grandchildren & 1 great granddaughter.
- ★ Jr. Member of the month - Angelica Corbin. Angelica is 11 years old & crews for Mom & Dad's balloon "Dream Catcher".
- ★ 7-15-99 - Balloons & Toons -unfavorable winds caused cancellation of the glow.
- ★ July 19, 1999 BOI Meeting: 18 members present; Meeting chaired by Bill Craig; Members enjoyed watermelon after the meeting.
- ★ 7-25-1999 Bill Marhoun received his Private license.
- ★ National Balloon Classic: 80 balloons; Amazing weather - flew 14 flights; Jim Christiansen was Balloonmeister; Propane was now at the field instead of at the high school - fantastic!; #1 JJ Johnson #2 Maury Petrehn #3 Jason Jones; Crew of the Year - Golden Griffin Crew and Schick Brothers Crew; Jon Russell award - Richard & Henry Schick; 1st New Competitor of the Year - Mark Harris; Special shapes – Shopping cart, Oggy, Purple People Eater, Lady Bug, Burger King Whopper, Matrioshka & Mrs. Butterworth.
- ★ August 15, 1999 BOI Meeting: 25 members present; Meeting chaired by Max Harris; 26 pilots have signed up for BOI Championship; Much, much work is being done on the Retirement Center with extensive traveling; BOI's funds to be moved to Community State Bank; Meeting closed & reopened 4 or 5 times - totally out of control
- ★ Council Bluffs: 20 balloons - 1st year. Balloonmeister was Rich Jaworski. Team Ribbon Task – 4 groups – timed event to see which group could launch without breaking a ribbon. Winning time over 8 minutes.
- ★ 8-12-1999 Max Harris received his private license.
- ★ Charles City: 2nd annual; 1 flight. Balloonmeister Bill Mooberry.
- ★ 8-27-99 Gerald Knoll took his first lesson – “Yeeeee haaaa, holy cow, man-o-man WHAT A RUSH!!!!!!! I haven't been that excited since the days of back seat romancing at the drive-in theater.”

- ★ 8-28-1999 Paul Schneider received his Commercial license.

5 years ago in BOI History:

- ★ 20 or more new balloons in the skies over Iowa this summer. Ballooning is not dying in Iowa. Al Appenzeller - bought Tim McConnell's; Scott Armstrong - bought Maury Petrehn's envelope; Brian Bennett - new; Cory Bloom - bought Bill Clemons'; Jeff Bridgewater - new; LeRoy Clair - new; Bret Christian - new; Bill Clemons - new; Mark Harris - new; Gary Haynes - new; Todd Isley - new; Gary Lawrence - bought Todd Netley's; Tim McConnell - new; Rob Nutting - bought Brian Bennett's; Holly Pfiefer - bought Paul Quandee's; Ralph & Donna Rieck - new; Jerry Tierman - new; Patti Todden - bought Ralph & Donna's; Joel Worthington – new.
- ★ Balloons Over Iowa Retirement Home Planning and Site Acquisition Committee - World Renowned Architect Phil Pash has built a prototype of a control tower for a BOI landing field. He took the prototype on a test drive & has disappeared.
- ★ July 15 - Balloons & Toons on the Indianola Square
- ★ No July BOI Meeting – it was flyable!
- ★ 7-25 Jeff Bridgewater received his private license.
- ★ August: Ed Yost honored as the first inductee into the Ballooning Hall of Fame. Ed Yost is regarded as the Father of Modern Ballooning. He developed the burner that is now used.
- ★ National Balloon Classic: 104 registered pilots. Nine flights. John Russell Award - the Reinert family - Mike, Brenda, Chris & Angie; Volunteer of the Year - Martha & Steve West; President's Award - Al Appenzeller; Crew of the Year - Ralph Rieck's crew; Newcomer of the Year - Scott Armstrong (12th place). Top 5: 1. Harold Graves 2. Benji Clemons 3. Jim Thompson 4. Jim Neill 5. Scott Allsup
- ★ 8-15 BOI Meeting: Meeting held by Bartholomew's pool; 11 members present; Chaired by Paul Randleman; Discussed a campaign for new officers and about Charlie and Maggie Worthington wanting to join the circle of noteworthy former bassets in charge; 61.91 kegs in treasury; Meeting adjourned to go watch balloons fly!
- ★ Charles City - 2 flights
- ★ Balloons Over The Mississippi; Fort Madison, Iowa. Two flights, one glow
- ★ The Lighter Than Air Balloon Affair, Council Bluffs - John Ninomiya of Helium Cluster Ballooning launched.
- ★ Connie Austin Christensen passed away August 30th

Balloons Over Iowa Membership Meeting

BOI Balloonport; Carlisle, IA

May 17, 2009

Present: Darcy & Lance Hoch, Ken Bolton, Tim Cloyd, Al & TJ Appenzeller, Rob Bartholomew, Bill Griffin, Max & Carol Harris

Meeting called to order by Chair Tim Cloyd at 6:41:31.

Secretary's report: Minutes from April meeting presented. Bill moved to approve secretary's report, Al 2nd. Motion approved.

Treasurer's report: Treasurer not present

Old Business:

- ★ He's not present
- ★ Good Ode to Spring party. No flight. Jeremy King won the indoor event.
- ★ Welcome new Board Members!
- ★ Discussion on changing weekends or adding a rain date.
- ★ RAGBRAI flight discussed.
- ★ Discussion on Government bail-out, then conversation went on to bailing out Al. Discussion on having a legal defense fund for members.

New Business:

- ★ Race next weekend in Kansas City. Al & Darcy going.
- ★ Discussion on Red Zones.

Rob moved to adjourn, Al 2nd. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned 7:28:20.

Respectfully submitted

Carol Harris, secretary for life.

Balloons Over Iowa Membership Meeting

BOI Balloonport, Carlisle, IA

June 21, 2009

Present: Ken Bolton, Jerry Bolton, Bill Griffin, Rob Bartholomew, Max & Carol Harris, Tim & Elise Cloyd

Meeting called to order by Chair Ken Bolton at 6:43:04pm

The meeting is already out of control – members are debating about what time it is.

Secretary's report: Minutes from May meeting presented. Rob moved to approve secretary's report, Max 2nd. Motion approved. Bill questioned why we

discussed bailing out Al. Members refreshed his memory.

Treasurer's report: Treasurer not present.

Discussion on beer – members dating themselves – talking about PBR, Grain Belt, Old Milwaukee.

Old Business:

- ◆ He's not here! He's at Fromm's anniversary party.
- ◆ Congratulations to Jim & Rita Fromm – celebrating their 35th wedding anniversary. Many BOI board members & club member there.
- ◆ Congratulations to Ken Bolton. He flew with Rob last night & received his Commercial license. They even landed in short grass.

Discussion on last night's flight.

- ◆ Sioux Falls race – flew 2 flights Saturday. There were 35 balloons
- ◆ Galena – flew 3 flights, 2 glows, 35 balloons.
- ◆ RAGBRAI/Indianola – 2 pilots are needed to glow on Simpson field. There will be a flight over town – meet at the balloon field at 5:45pm.

New Business:

- ◆ Ottumwa is next weekend – it will probably be wet & muddy. They've had a lot of rain
- ◆ Ft. Madison race – July 17.
- ◆ Discussion on the National Balloon Classic. There will be no special shapes, but the Cluster balloon will be there twice.
- ◆ Happy Father's Day to all Dads.

Max moved to adjourn, Bill seconded. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:12:40.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Harris, Secretary for life.

Event reviews

34th Annual Great Plains Balloon Race

June 12-14, 2009

On Friday June 12, nearly forty pilots converged on Sioux Falls, South Dakota to participate in one of the longest running balloon races in the country: the 34th Annual Great Plains Balloon Race. Rain showers plagued the area on Friday, but since only a check in party was scheduled Friday evening none of the festivities were affected. The rains moved out of the area Friday evening, but as winds went light there was the threat for fog developing.

Pilots awoke early Saturday morning and headed to the balloon field on the east side of town. Observations from around the area showed that fog with visibilities of half mile to less than one quarter of a mile had developed encircling Sioux Falls, however the visibility only dipped as low as six miles within the immediate Sioux Falls area thanks to a stratus deck that held around 2500 feet. Because of that, a hare and hound was called with Scott Christensen as the hare. Winds were quite light out of the west, with winds aloft out of the west-northwest. Scott landed in a hay field on the eastside of town nearly a mile east of the balloon field, with 11 balloons following him on to the target. Many of the pilots opted to fly on as surface winds dropped to near nothing with a light westerly wind aloft. This worked out well though, as fields were still wet from the recent rains, allowing pilots to maneuver their balloons into wide open housing developments on the east side of town keeping their equipment clean and dry.

Winds remained light throughout the day on Saturday allowing the Uncle Sam balloon to make a static tether appearance at the Veterans Hospital in town. Others took advantage of the nearly picture perfect day and perused through the sculpture walk downtown, visited Falls Park or took in the Rodin (the artist that created 'The Thinker') exhibit at the Science Center.

Pilots came back to the balloon field Saturday evening for a second flight. Winds initially were a little squirrely due to lingering thermal activity, but were expected to settle down as the evening progressed. Upper level clouds began to approach from a thunderstorm that had developed 150 miles away across central South Dakota. With all the pilots and a large crowd of spectators, the park was quite packed as the balloons took to the air. The task was a double hare and hound. The first target was placed in a field on the northeast side of town near interstate 29, while the second target was on the north side of town adjacent to Citibank, the largest employer in Sioux Falls. Nearly half the field of pilots scored on the first target that evening, while only five were able to maneuver into the second target.

Since this was a two flight event, pilots and crews were allowed to sleep in on Sunday morning (which was also flyable). At least one balloon flew that morning taking advantage of the great weather Mother Nature provided, prior to the brunch. After the scores from Saturday were tallied, the top five were:

- | | |
|------------------|-------------------|
| 5: Linda Conover | 2: Benji Clemons |
| 4: Gary Britton | 1: Wynn Gustafson |
| 3: Devin Burnham | |

Congratulations to the sponsors, pilots and crews for making

the Great Plains Event so successful! We look forward to next year, when we will celebrate the 50th anniversary of the modern hot air balloon.

32nd annual Ottumwa Pro Balloon Race

June 26-28, 2009

45 pilots gathered at the park Friday evening after checking in to the Americinn & Super 8 motels. Officials for the weekend were: Bill Clemons - Race Director, Aaron Foelske – Weather, and Brian Bennett - Safety officer. At the first pilot's meeting, a fun flight was called with one target & a \$250 pole-grab on the field. Pilots headed out northeast of the park to find a launch spot. Most launched from the middle of town, much to the delight of the community. Chase crews had some challenges, seems like half the roads in town were closed or being worked on. The winner of the fun flight was Al Appenzeller. No one grabbed the \$250 pole. There was a HUGE crowd at the park for the night glow. Fireworks followed the flight.

Saturday morning it seemed a little windy, but do-able until we heard that winds at 300 feet were 30 mph. OK, back to bed. The wind continued to blow all day and by evening it was windy and there were storms in the area. The flight & glow were eventually canceled. Kirk Bloom did an inflation to show the crowd. He used 4 fans & was cold packed in 58 seconds! Do you suppose that some of the competitive pilots will now start carrying 4 fans?

Sunday morning, it was again a little breezy, but not quite as bad aloft. So Bill called a 1 part task, encouraging the pilots to get down quickly, as they would be heading towards the SE and the river area. Many pilots elected to stay on the ground, deciding they would rather wish they were in the air..... Some pilots weren't able to get down quick, but everyone landed safely. Some left the county – kudos to the chase crews that kept up with them.

At the banquet, Race organizers Holly & Dale Dommer thanked all the members of the committee & others who put in much time & effort to make this a great event.

Then the top 13 were announced:

- | | |
|--|---------------------|
| 1. Jeremy Rubin | 7. Jon Shelton |
| 2. Leroy Clair | 8. Aaron Gebhart |
| 3. Brad Craig | 9. Jason Jones |
| 4. Mark Harris | 10. Scott Armstrong |
| 5. Kirk Bloom | 11. Dan Corbin |
| 6. Cory Bloom | 12. Benji Clemons |
| 13. 3 way tie - Eldon Benus, Aaron Foelske, Adam Boden | |

Dan Corbin was recognized for having the longest flight Sunday morning. Cory Bloom was not present, so his money was accepted by his father - Rice Paddy Daddy! Apparently Cory landed in ankle deep water & chin high grass. The land-owner was great - he helped with the retrieval on his hay wagon.

NTSB Reports

NTSB Identification: LAX08CA112.

Sunday, April 13, 2008 in Buckeye, AZ

Aircraft: Ultramagic -250, registration: N35EX

Injuries: 1 Serious, 10 Uninjured.

The pilot stated that prior to departing for the sightseeing flight in the balloon, he gave the 10 passengers a safety briefing. The briefing included instructions on hard landings, which were to hang onto a handle and stay low in the basket. During the flight, the winds increased, and the pilot estimated there was an 18- to 20-mph wind blowing for the landing. Prior to landing, he warned the passengers it would be a "hard rough landing." When the balloon was on final approach, he told the passengers to "grab handles, get down, get way down, stay down." The balloon contacted the ground and was dragged 50 to 70 yards. During the ground drag, the pilot heard one of the passengers yell out that her nose was broken. She had bumped her face on the rail getting down. Additionally, she sustained a broken wrist. Later, the passenger told the pilot that she had "wanted to look, and did not get down in time." The injured passenger reported that before takeoff, the pilot told the passengers, "if I tell you it's going to be rough, get down in the bottom of the basket." The passenger did not recall whether the pilot told the passengers it was going to be rough before the landing. It was a rough landing, and her son, who was also a passenger, pulled her into the bottom of the basket.

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident as follows: The passenger's failure to hear and follow the pilot's instructions to get down in the bottom of the balloon basket before the high wind landing. A contributing factor was the high wind condition.

NTSB Identification: SEA08LA119.

Saturday, May 03, 2008 in Phoenix, AZ

Aircraft: Cameron Balloons C-100, registration: N6004K

Injuries: 1 Serious, 2 Minor, 1 Uninjured.

During the approach to landing, the balloon's descent rate was about 300 feet per minute. About 200 feet above the ground the balloon encountered a strong windshear, increasing its horizontal speed over the ground to about 30 knots. The balloon continued descending at about 300 feet per minute until touching down, at which time its basket tilted over and began to drag for about 200 yards, with the last 125 yards over rocky ground. One of the passengers sustained a serious injury due to his arm being stuck between the basket and the ground. The chase crew arrived at the scene about 40 seconds later. No anomalies were reported with the balloon prior to the flight.

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident as follows: The pilot's inadequate weather evaluation during the landing approach. Contributing to the accident were windshear and rocky terrain.

NTSB Identification: LAX08CA209.

Wednesday, July 02, 2008 in Boulder, CO

Aircraft: AEROSTAR S-77A, registration: N9014W

Injuries: 2 Minor, 5 Uninjured.

The pilot performed a normal cold-inflation of the balloon and instructed the passengers to board. The balloon was suddenly overcome by a gust of wind that pushed the envelope into a tree. The balloon was drawn upward by the wind, with its vent lines still entangled in the tree. As the lines became taut, sections of material ripped from the envelope, resulting in several long vertical tears. The pilot elected to abort the flight due to increasing wind speeds. The pilot attempted to gain control and stabilize the balloon, but it descended and collided with a tree. The basket came to rest about 20 feet above terrain. The pilot stated that there were no preimpact mechanical malfunctions or failures with the balloon.

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident as follows: An encounter with a sudden gust of wind, which rendered the balloon uncontrollable and led to a collision with a tree

Table of Contents

Record Altitude Flight by Chauncey Dunn	1	Happy Birthday	7
Letter from President Meika	2	Ottumwa Photos	8
Letter from Vice-President Sandy	2	Sioux Falls Photos	10
Harlan's Dream	4	The Way It Was	11
RAGBRAI	4	Balloons Over Iowa Membership Meeting	13
National Balloon Museum News	5	Event reviews	13
Congratulations	5	34th Annual Great Plains Balloon Race	13
Happy Anniversary	6	32nd annual Ottumwa Pro Balloon Race	14
Mary Dockstader	6	NTSB Reports	15
Calendar of Events	7		

Thanks to the following for their contributions to this newsletter: Al Appenzeller, Meika Bartholomew, Suzanne Berge, Brett Boerner, Missy Boerner, Tim Cloyd, Chauncey Dunn, Jim Fromm, Max Harris, Don Prine, Gerry Prine, Brad Temeyer, Mark Weeks, and Becky Wigeland

Touch and Go

Balloons Over Iowa

Carol Harris - Editor

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Newsletter Deadline

September 10

Send articles, pictures, birthdays, anniversaries,
announcements, events, funny balloon stories, etc. to:

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Balloons Over Iowa Membership Meetings

Meetings are held every third Sunday of the month 6:30
p.m. at the Balloon Port. Schedule of meetings:

August 16

September 20